

## **Preventing Deaths from Starvation among 70 Vulnerable Families in Eastern Uganda**

### **Summary**

Community Concerns Uganda (CCUg) focuses on using education to reduce poverty among women, youths and children in the Jinja and Mayuge districts, eastern Uganda. The organization provides sponsorship to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in primary schools and also works with caregivers to uplift household incomes. All 70 OVC families under current sponsorship are facing a crisis of hunger and starvation. Your donation will address the immediate food shortage to starvation and death.

### **Challenge**

CCUg works in East Central Region of Uganda where 0.38 million people are living in a crisis food situation. More than 80 OVC families in three villages are food insecure, ranging from crisis to acute food insecurity. Without interventions, these families face increased risk of chronic malnutrition among children and caregivers, school dropout, starvation and death. To counter the crisis, CCUg seeks to implement a sustainable food security project among 70 OVC families.

### **The Solution**

The OVC caregivers in the program are eager to work; however, they don't presently have the opportunity to earn income or to farm due to lack of land and related resources. CCUg's strategy is to provide long-term access to nutritional food for OVC and their caregivers by providing access to farm land, seed and agricultural training in surplus food production. Specifically, the organization proposes to rent 35 acres of land for one year. During the year, 70 OVC families will be provided with half an acre each to farm, enabling them to grow crops on their rented subplots to feed their children and other household members.

In addition to rented land, CCUg will also provide education and skills training for caregivers in sustainable, surplus agronomic practices, allowing them to increase food security for their families and build household income through the sale of surplus produce. The project will also teach financial literacy, increase access to credit through the use of small group savings programs and provide resources to foster collective marketing and sales of soya bean crops.

The project will distribute soya beans (Maksoy 3N variety) and Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP) to caregivers to plant. Soya bean production has high potential to not only fight hunger and food insecurity among OVC families but also to increase household incomes through sales of surplus produce. In addition, Uganda ranks number 3 out of 75 countries suitable for investing in OFSP. The potatoes provide up to 100% of daily Vitamin A, Iron, Zinc, Calcium and Magnesium needs, and hence are a valuable means of preventing malnutrition and diseases linked to deficiencies in these vital nutrients.

**Impact**

- The project will improve food security among 70 OVC families, enabling them to increase their household incomes, improve nutrition and reduce malnutrition and risk of starvation and death.
- The project will increase school retention among OVC, enabling them to gain the skills and knowledge that are vital to reducing poverty in the long run.

**Sustainability**

The increased access to credit in form of practical savings and loaning activities will help make it possible for OVC caregivers to rent or buy their own land for farming by the end of the year so as to continue farming. Similarly, income earned from selling soya flour will also be used to sustain the project. In addition, the agronomic education and other skills caregivers acquire related to soya bean and OFSP production will provide life-long value that caregivers and their children will have for the rest of their lives.

**Needed Amount**

\$11,000

**Donation Options**

- \$60 will rent an acre of land for 2 OVC families for a year.
- \$120 will buy farming inputs for 35 families.
- \$800 will buy 700 kg of soya seeds for 70 families
- \$205 will buy vines for 35 OVC families.